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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF)
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Michael G. Bunn)
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SERIAL NO:)
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FILED:)
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FOR: Printed Document)
Authentication)

jc715 U.S. PTO

09/504150



02/15/00

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97-1.98, submitted herewith is Form PTO-1449 along with copies of the 11 references identified therein. Also submitted herewith is a copy of the British search report in which these references were cited. This Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed and no fee is required.

EP 0730243 describes an identification card verification system which includes an image and uses a digital signature to protect against alterations in the image.

EP 0710934 describes a method of authenticating an article by encrypting an identification number to form a unique data

signature which is fixed to the article or to an ownership certificate.

EP 0640946 describes a method for document verification by including encrypted information derived from the document and an encrypted decryption key for decrypting the encrypted information.

EP 0600646 describes a method of producing a document secure against tampering, by scanning the document to produce a digital signal which is compressed, encrypted, and coded as a two-dimensional barcode, which is then incorporated in a label which is affixed to the document.

EP 0599558 describes a method for producing and authenticating an identification card for an entity. An image of the entity is compressed, encrypted and coded as a two dimensional barcode which is incorporated in the identity card.

EP 0372692 describes a barcode with two sets of bars, one set including basic information such as an employee's identification number, and the other set including encrypted security information.

EP 0187448 describes a card verification system in which signals identifying the composition of the card are recorded on the card in encrypted form, combined with signals representative of the information on the card.

WO 94/19770 describes an identity card including a photograph and/or personal signature, personal information, and an encrypted security code comprising a combination of digitised personal information and a digitised descriptor of the photograph and/or personal signature.

US 5742685 and US 5420924 both describe a method of verifying an identification card. A person is scanned to produce a digital signal, which is compressed, encrypted, and encoded as a two

dimensional barcode, which is incorporated into the card along with the image.

US 5351302 describes a method of using public-key cryptography to produce a title card for a vehicle. The card includes a digital signature of the vehicle identification number, vehicle license plate, and owner's name.

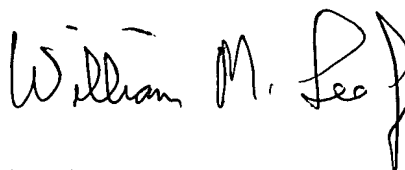
However, none of these citations describes or suggests a method as claimed in the present Claim 1 in which there are three separate roles involved: a document producer, an authentication authority, and a document checker, and in which an authentication code printed on a document is generated by the authentication authority from information sent to it by the document producer.

Thus, despite the British Patent Examiner's categorization of these references as "X" category, it is submitted that the present invention is clearly distinguished from the prior art, and that that the present claims are clearly patentable over the references.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

Date: 2/11/00

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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